

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CLUTTON

General



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1961.



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THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1961

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1961.

Again, as in 1960, I am able to report a year of remarkable freedom from epidemic disease. For weeks at a time I had no cases to report to you, in other words I had received no Notifications. This year the total number of Births has dropped and the Total Deaths have risen with consequent variation in the Vital Statistics. Since we are told that we have an ageing population I suppose this must be expected.

Preventive Medicine

All the schemes of Vaccination and Immunization provided through the County Council and administered by Family Doctors or School Clinics have been effectively carried out all over the District. A mass of figures is appended to show you how the public avail themselves of the opportunities. I wish they would do so even more.

Sewerage

The Paulton Scheme has been in full operation and is working satisfactorily. Work has started on the Chew Magna/Bishop Sutton Scheme and is proceeding apace helped no doubt by some long spells of good weather.

In addition similar schemes for Farmborough and Timsbury, also for Chilcompton, are moving and will proceed in their turn.

We must not forget Chew Stoke or Farrington Gurney.

Water Supply

Has been taken off our hands by the Bristol Waterworks Company in accordance with regrouping.

We must thank the Bristol Waterworks Company for an adequate supply of pure water in the mains and for the courtesy of their Staff.

Housing

We have tried to do as much as possible under the Slum Clearance Programme and have made some headway. You will read in The Public Health Inspector's Report the details of what we have done. There remains a lot more but it is slow and tedious work; requires a lot of tact and repeated visits before much can be accomplished. Many of the tenants are old with very small incomes and they are loath to be disturbed, others would like to move but are afraid of the increased rents and of having new neighbours and no old friends next door.

Moreover your old furniture may look all right in the old cottage but is not so good in a smart new bungalow!!

I must say that when I go around with your Inspectors I find that in most cases they manage to dispel most of the fears but it takes time.

There is a great deal of new building, both private and speculative, going on throughout the District with a consequent influx of new comers who do not work in the District but travel to and from the towns to their jobs. I am surprised that the population has decreased slightly.

There is still a demand for more Council Houses though not so large, but every Parish still has a waiting list, and I know of a few families who have been waiting nearly 20 years and still have not been accommodated. Their families have grown up and gone to work, some have married, the house is getting more and more decrepit and crowded but their chance has not yet come!!

Litter

The provision of litter baskets has led to a general improvement, but still a lot of people do not appear to look for them.

Street Cleaning

Oh for the days when each Parish had its own Roadman who tidied up the village once a week!! There seems to be no system nowadays, and what looks worse than a dirty village street littered with mud, leaves and paper.

SECTION A

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

R.V. Brew, M.B., B.S., Medical Officer of Health	(Part Time)
F.C. Powell, Senior Public Health Inspector	(Full Time)
W. Kerley, Additional Public Health Inspector	(Full Time)
A.D. Soloman, Additional Public Health Inspector	(Full Time)

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSE LETTING COMMITTEE

SECTION B

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Notifications Received during the year
Measles	297
Scarletina(Scarlet Fever)	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Meningococcal Infection	-
Dysentery	-
Whooping Cough	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4)
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3)
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Erysipelas	5
Food Poisoning	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	8
" (Non Respiratory)	2
Diphtheria	-
Membranous ; Croup	-
Enteric and Paratyphoid	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Typhus	-
Typhoid Fever	-
Smallpox	-
Cholera	-
Malaria	-
Plague	-
Anthrax	-

Preventive Medicine

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Antitetanus immunization injections are provided free by the County Council and can be obtained from the Family Doctor (or from the School Medical Officers on occasions). No charge is made for the injections.

Vaccination against Smallpox, also provided and paid for by the County Council, should be done in the first six months of a Baby's life and renewed at least once in the teen age, or on going abroad. Both Primary and Revaccination can be done at any age.

Poliomyelitis (Vaccination)

Is available to all under the age of 40 years free of charge and should be done by the General Practitioner.

To those over 40 the vaccine can be prescribed for them by the General Practitioner, obtained from the Chemist on payment of 2/- and injected by the Doctor free of charge.

In my opinion it is essential that all under 60 years should be so protected.

Two doses are given at three-week intervals and a third or booster dose seven months later or thereabouts.

Oral vaccine is now being substituted for the injection method.

None of these services are used as they should be.

Following are some statistics furnished by the County Medical Officer of Health which I commend you to digest, bearing in mind that we have a population of 17,890 and there were 280 births during the year.

	<u>June</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary Injection -			
Full Course to:	162	101	263
Reinforcing Injections to:	43	167	210
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Injections during year	257		
<u>Smallpox Vaccinations</u>			
Primary	75		
Revaccination	4		
<u>Poliomyelitis Vaccinations</u>			
	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	
Children Born 1943 to 1961	345	290	
Young Persons born 1933 to 1942	76	132	
Persons under 40 yrs of age	257	296	
Persons over 40 yrs of age and priority groups	2	10	
Number of persons all groups who received a Reinforcing Injection	736	2,065	
Number of Children of 5yrs but under 12 yrs who received a fourth reinforcing injection	1,321		

SECTION C

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946 LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Is controlled by the County Council, the work is done through the patient's own Doctor and the District Nurse, Antenatal work is carried out by them or at ante-natal clinics generally situated in the local available hospitals. Patients are encouraged to report to one or both in the early months, in order that these preliminary examinations can be executed and conducted at regular intervals.

Patients can have their babies either at home or in a hospital, in the former case being attended by their own nurse and doctor. They remain under their care for six weeks, or more if needed.

In many areas there are Welfare Clinics to continue the health supervision of the child until it is five years of age and starts school. In addition, the mother and child are visited at intervals by their District Nurse who can summon the Doctor when needed. The Scheme works extremely well and there has been no need for modifications since its inception in 1948.

HEALTH VISITING is in the hands of the County Council and is done by Nurses on the County Staff. They appear to visit all cases of Tuberculosis and cases of bad housing conditions with or without over-crowding. The result is frequently a letter to your Medical Officer of Health demanding a Council House for the householder.

HOME NURSING SERVICE - conducted by the District Nurses. No special staff in this area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE including the provision of free transport for those unable to travel by public transport. The service is excellent and a great boon to the sick and injured. The staffs are unfailingly prompt and helpful and a special word of thanks is due to them for the excellent work they do and the way they do it.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE. In this District it is run by the W.V.S. It is of great assistance to the sick and aged sick. Unfortunately the supply of Helps is not large; I wish it could be augmented, for the work they do is badly needed and greatly appreciated.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED SICK. I am glad to report that during the past year the conditions appear to have improved. I personally have had better luck in obtaining admission for my own cases. I know of no additional accommodation being available and I wonder if another year of more illness will resuscitate the bed shortage once again.

SECTION D

HOUSING

For full details of the work in this connection I refer you to the report of your Inspector.

SECTION E

FOOD POISONING

No cases this year.

SECTION F

MILK

One of the major industries of the Clutton R.D.C. There has been a fall in the total National production but I should doubt if this applies to our area. Somerset is now a Clean County which means that all known Tuberculosis in Cattle has been eradicated and all milk is now from T.T. Attested Cattle. All milk offered for public sale must now be either T.T. Pasteurised or Sterilized.

SECTION G

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Your Inspectors have again dealt with their duties in this connection in an efficient manner and very few carcasses remained uninspected. The Control of slaughtering hours would eliminate this small number entirely.

From your Inspector's Report you will notice that a considerable amount of work has been put in advising the slaughterhouse occupiers of what works will be necessary to their premises to enable them to comply with new legislation. This work was advanced during the year by the preparation of plans and the completion of reports required by the Minister.

By the end of the year all except two had been satisfactorily completed.

SECTION H

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres: 43,258

Registrar General's estimate of resident population: 17,890

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 5,983

Rateable Value and sum represented by a Penny Rate: £173,936
and £685.15.2d respectively.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR

Estimated Mid Year Population	...	...	...	17,890
Live Births:	...	...	...	280
Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	15.6
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births)	...	...	...	3.15
Total Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	10
Stillbirths	...	...	...	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births..	...	...	...	10.60
Total Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	283
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)..	...	...	...	4
Infant Mortality Rates:				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	14.27
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	14.27
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	14.27
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	10.35
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	21.20
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)				
Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	Nil.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	Nil	Nil	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	4	0	4
" " of Lungs	7	1	8
" " of Breast	0	3	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	14	4	18
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	19	31
Coronary Disease and Angina	31	13	44
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	5	8
Other Heart Diseases	13	24	37
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	9	12
Influenza	4	2	6
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis	6	1	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	1	6
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Other Defined or Ill-defined Diseases	4	13	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0	2
All Other Accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	2	2	4
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	0	1
Other Infective Diseases	0	1	1
Diabetis	1	2	3
Total...	126	107	233

Death Rate = 13.02 per 1,000 population

Again may I draw your attention to no Deaths from Tuberculosis, Infectious Diseases or in Pregnancy or Childbirth. This is noteworthy and a matter for congratulation. It is certainly due to the increased efficiency of modern methods both in Preventive Medicine and Treatment.

I cannot conclude this report without once again expressing my thanks to your Public Health Staff for their invariable kindness and help to me personally. Nobody knows better than I how hard they work. They shoulder new burdens and increasing old ones with a shrug and just get on with it as best they can. They work many additional hours at night and at weekends and even then the jobs continue to pile up. Both in their office and out of doors you now have a really well organized machine, but we must not overburden it.

My thanks also are due to Mr. Burdge and his Staff for willing help whenever I need it.

I have the honour to remain

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

RICHARD V. BREW, M.B., B.S.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Fifth Annual Report and Summary of the Sanitary Conditions of the area.

The work carried out in the Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1961, is detailed under the various subject headings which follow.

WATER SUPPLY.

Now that the Council are no longer the Statutory Water Undertakers a substantial amount of the under-mentioned data has been obtained from and with the ready co-operation of the Bristol Waterworks Company.

- (a) The Water Supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory (i) in quality, and (ii) in quantity, apart from local difficulties experienced following the electrification of the Townsend Pumping Station.
- (b) Samples taken from mains piped supply were as follows :-

SOURCE	Raw Water				Treated after going into supply.			
	Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Satis-Factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-Factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory.
Main Supplies	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	-

- (c) No waters were found to have plumbo solvent action and consequently no special precautions were necessary.
- (d) No serious contamination of main supplies was reported but investigation and immediate action was taken where sampling indicated slight pollution.

- (e) The number of dwellinghouses and the number of population supplied from Public Water Mains; one direct to houses and two by means of stand pipes, is as follows in respect of each parish in the rural district.

The statistical information regarding the supply of mains water throughout the district is approximately as follows :-

Population of Statutory Area	17,890
Population supplied into houses	16,560
Population supplied by stand-pipes	465
Total Population directly supplied	17,025
Population without piped supplies	865

PARISH	Pop 1961	Population supplied		
		into houses	by standpipes	Total
Cameley	628	616	11	627
Chelwood	128	128	-	128
Chew Magna	1,007	950	-	950
Chew Stoke	729	720	-	720
Chilcompton	1,461	1,371	50	1,421
Clutton	1,132	1,090	35	1,125
Compton Martin	464	388	-	388
East Harptree	555	537	-	537
Farnborough	772	760	11	771
Farrington Gurney	690	671	18	689
High Littleton	1,368	1,315	43	1,358
Hinton Blewett	161	146	-	146
Litton	192	148	-	148
Nempnett	186	146	-	146
Norton Malreward	214	214	-	214
Paulton	3,162	3,100	60	3,160
Fulbow	872	854	-	854
Stanton Drew	550	477	17	494
Ston Easton	467	450	12	462
Stowey Sutton	752	735	14	749
Timsbury	1,677	1,475	194	1,669
Ubley	293	228	-	228
West Harptree	430	333	-	333
Totals	17,890	16,560	465	17,025

- (f) Water supplies from wells and private sources. Twelve samples were taken as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
WELL SUPPLIES	2	10

As a result of the above sampling, one well was closed and mains supply laid on, whilst seven of the other unsatisfactory supplies will be abandoned when the Bristol Waterworks Company carry out extensions to their water mains at Northwick and Radford, Timsbury, at the request of and as agreed by the Council.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district continued to expand rapidly. Work on the construction of the £250,000 Bishop Sutton and Chew Magna Sewerage Scheme commenced in April and by the end of the year was proceeding well ahead of schedule, with every prospect of the works being in operation before the end of 1962.

Meanwhile two further schemes were submitted to the Ministry,

- (1) The extension of the Farmborough Scheme to Timsbury to serve Lippiatt Lane, Bloomfield and Timsbury House areas.
- (2) The Stage 1 of the Chilcompton Sewerage Scheme.

Subsequently, in May an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government attended at your offices to enquire into these schemes, following which approval of both was received in due course.

At the end of the year seven villages had a public sewerage system, whilst twenty-seven Council Houses estate plants were in operation.

The sewage Works mentioned above have again been regularly maintained by your five full time and one part time employees, but again whilst the majority of the larger works give satisfactory results, many of the estate works simply failed to produce results up to the Royal Commission standard.

Much remains to be done and for your information the priority list for Sewerage Schemes as agreed in 1960 is as follows :-

1. Chew Magna-Bishop Sutton Scheme - Commenced.
2. Tinsbury, Lippiatt Lane Scheme - Approved.
3. Chilcompton Stage 1 - Approved
4. Tinsbury Trunk Sewer, High Littleton and Hallatrow.
5. Chew Stoke.
6. Farrington Gurney.
7. Pensford
8. Ston Easton
9. Cameley (Temple Cloud Village)
10. West Harptree
11. East Harptree
12. Clutton (Second Stage)
13. Chilcompton (Second Stage)
14. Norton Malreward and Lower Stanton,
Litton and Chelwood.

Nuisances of varying degree exist in all of the above mentioned parishes which allow of no remedy other than a public sewerage scheme.

BUILDING BYELAW AND TOWN PLANNING STATISTICS.

The number of plans received for consideration by the Council has again increased and from a practical aspect Building Byelaw inspections continue to take up an ever increasing part of your Inspectors' time.

Comparable figures with 1960 are as follows :-

New Dwellings	Completed		Under Construction	
	1960	1961	1960	1961.
R. D. C.	6	122	122	-
Private Enterprise	38	53	35	96

For the record 509 plans were dealt with by the department during the year arising from which some 1,179 inspections and visits were made, compared with 446 plans and 971 visits during 1960.

Your special attention is drawn to the rapid increase in the number of private enterprise houses completed or under construction at the end of the year, a total of 149. When I presented my first Annual Report five years ago the comparable figure was 38.

TABLE OF PLANS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE
BYELAWS AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS AND ORDERS.

		1960		1961	
		Plans	Bldgs.	Plans	Bldgs.
1.	Council Houses (including Outline)	2	52	3	19
2.	Private Houses applications	148	140	188	176
3.	Alterations and additions to houses	114	117	116	112
4.	Conversions to houses	6	7	7	6
5.	Farm Buildings	19	19	25	22
6.	Factories, including alterations and additions	11	11	9	10
7.	Temporary Buildings and Moveable Dwellings	13	13	14	14
8.	Licensed Premises, including alterations and additions	1	1	-	-
9.	Shops, including additions and alterations.	6	6	2	2
10.	Petrol Stations and Garages	10	10	11	9
11.	Local Authority (Bus Shelters, Sewers, Water Schemes, Schools, etc.)	9	13	1	1
12.	Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Boards, etc.)	33	33	37	12
13.	Private Garages.	53	62	83	100
14.	Advertisements	13	13	6	6
15.	Public Halls & Buildings Alterations and additions.	8	8	7	7
Total :		446	505	509	496

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

1899 - 1923
(as amended)

Applications for loans to purchase or erect dwelling houses again showed substantial increase. During the year 34 surveys and valuations were carried out by your Officers, 24 advances were made, 3 refused and 8 not taken up or withdrawn. The total sum advanced was £29,715, an increase of over £7,000 over 1960.

In addition 11 surveys were made and a total sum of £6,299 advanced in respect of 10 applications for loans for the repair of dwellinghouses under the Housing (Financial Provisions) act 1958.

(a) HOUSING - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A slight increase may be reported in the number of applications for both Standard and Discretionary Grants and the figures are as follows :-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961.</u>
<u>Standard Grants</u>		
Applications	33	34
Dwellings involved: Owner/Occupied	25	20
Tenanted	8	14
Applications approved	31	34
withdrawn or refused	2	-
<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>		
Applications	39	41
Dwellings involved: Owner/Occupied	24	29
Tenanted	17	16
Applications approved... ..	39	40
withdrawn or refused	-	1

It is pleasing to be able to report that 6.5% of houses, excluding Council Houses, within this district had been improved with the aid of an Improvement Grant. The national average is believed to be between 2% and 3% .

It is also worth noting that the percentage of tenanted houses which were the subject of applications during 1961 increased from 33% to 38% .

The financial details of Standard Grants paid and Discretionary Grants approved during 1961 are as follows :-

	<u>Standard</u> (18 dwellings)	<u>Discretionary.</u> (40 dwellings).
(1) Total of approved Grants	£2,308	£14,256
(2) Average Grant per dwelling	£128	£356
(3) Total expenditure to be incurred by owners.	£3,370	£32,360
(4) Average expenditure to be incurred by owners per dwelling	£187	£809

(b) HOUSING - GENERAL.

No statutory action was taken during the year under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957 to secure the repair of houses repairable at a reasonable cost.

Substantial progress was however made in the slum clearance programme, and the completions of Housing Schemes at both Farmborough and Paulton enabled 94 families from Slum Clearance houses to be re-housed. Formal action under the Housing Act was commenced in respect of 13 houses not considered repairable at a reasonable cost.

Statistical information on the Housing situation
as at 31. 12. 61 is as follows :-

1.	Total number of permanent dwellings in the district ...	5,983
2.	Total number of permanent dwellings owned by the Council (Excluding 40 prefabs).	1,402
3.	Estimated number of houses as at August 1955 unfit for human habitation	583
4.	Approximate number of (3) above dealt with to 31.12.61. ...	307
5.	Approximate number to be dealt with (280 families).	276
6.	Approximate number of (5) above in confirmed clearance orders and still occupied at 31.12.61 ...	125
7.	Number demolished to 31.12.61...	85
8.	Number of houses made fit during the year	64
9.	Number of applications for Council Houses at 31.12.61 (subject to revision) -	350

From the figures given above, particularly items
3, 4, 5 & 6, indicate that much remains to be done before
the seriously unfit houses in this district have been either
demolished, closed or brought up to the required standard.

RODENT CONTROL AND VERMIN INFESTATION.

There is again nothing outstanding to report in the year's activities regarding Rodent Control, although the steady influx of complaints gave the operator little time for a parish to parish survey. Infestations generally were, however, of a minor character and satisfactory results have been achieved in routine treatment. The sewage works and refuse tips have again been regularly surveyed and treated and public sewers in six parishes were test baited and treated where this was found necessary.

	(1) L.A.	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) Business Premises	(4) Farms	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of properties inspected as a result of :-					
(a) Notifications	18	206	23	29	276
(b) Surveys	46	589	44	51	730
Number of Inspections	171	1164	164	174	1673
Number of properties found to be infested :-					
RATS Major Infestation	3	-	7	18	28
Minor "	36	245	39	24	344
MICE Major Infestation	-	-	-	-	-
Minor "	-	36	2	1	39
Number of infested properties treated	30	160	20	27	237
Number of Treatments	57	259	45	44	405
Number of Block Controls	-	12 (for 64 premises)	-	-	12

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The weekly refuse collection scheme carried out by contract with the British Road Services has proceeded satisfactorily during the year with very few complaints, and these generally resulting from vehicle breakdowns which were unavoidable.

A further nine new litter baskets were erected within the district mainly at points frequented by holiday travellers, in addition to twelve replacements. Unfortunately many of these baskets have had to be taken down and repaired or replaced due to unnecessary damage to them. The total number erected to 31.12.61 was 89.

The refuse tip at Goosard's Bridge, Paulton, continued in use during the year as a sole disposal point and I am pleased to be able to report that following the purchase of a Bristol "Duplex" Tractor in mid-summer 1961 the tip has been under effective control. Covering material from the slag heap on the site has been readily available and an all round improvement ensued. Unfortunately a fire occurred on the tip just prior to the delivery of the Bristol "Duplex" Tractor but whether started deliberately or spontaneously was not ascertained. It was not possible to put this out but consolidation and covering enabled the nuisance from smoke and smell to be kept to a minimum.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Statutory Notices:	Served	...	...	...	3
	Abated	...	...	...	3
Informal Notices:	Served	...	...	...	72
	Abated	...	...	...	46

The outstanding notices are followed up as time allows.

Total number of inspections in connection with the above during the year	435
---	-----	-----	-----

Details of inspections are as follows :-

Houses, complaints and repair	...	...	142
Animals, or fowls kept in such a state as to be a nuisance	...	...	16
Accumulation of filth or refuse	...	...	25
Ponds, ditches or watercourses	...	...	58
Defective dustbins or closet pans	....	...	-
Rodent Control (other than by operator)	...		26
House drainage complaints	...	...	169

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ENQUIRIES AND DISINFECTIONS.

Investigations were made after cases of infectious diseases as notified in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, and disinfections were carried out where necessary.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT.

Following the adoption of comprehensive licensing conditions in December 1960, seventeen licences were granted during the year for single caravans. No appreciable influx of caravans into the district was noted and no applications were received for a permanent residential or holiday caravan site. Your inspectors made 31 inspections under the above Act during the year. Generally speaking the occupiers of single sites have caused little or no nuisance.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Our records indicate that premises within the district are made up according to the following table :-

(1)	Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
(2)	Butchers Shops	...	...	...	17
(3)	Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	5
(4)	Milk (a) No. of Registered Distributors	...	...	...	12
	(b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms	...	...	...	3
	(c) No. of Licensed Dealers in Designated Milk..	...	...	...	17
(5)	Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955	...	...	...	84
(6)	Shops selling food	...	...	...	94
(7)	Cafes and Guest Houses	...	...	...	14
(8)	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	54
(9)	Shops selling Ice Cream	...	...	...	83

Some 24 visits were made by your Inspectors to various premises. Informal notices were served as occasion demanded.

Once again it is regrettable to have to report that increasing commitments elsewhere gave little or no time for regular inspection of food premises, other than meat inspection.

No ice cream is being manufactured in the district, the number of premises licensed to sell this commodity remained as in the previous year. No routine samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination during the year as this function has been taken over by the County Council, and neither were any special samples required in the case of infectious disease.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

At the end of the year the number of licensed slaughterhouses was as follows :-

Bishop Sutton	One	(wholesale)
Chew Magna	One	(for own use only)
High Littleton	One	(for own use only)
Norton Malreward	One	(wholesale)
Temple Cloud	One	(for own use only)
West Harptree	One	(for own use only)

One slaughterhouse in Chew Magna was closed during the year.

The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 became fully operative on the appointed day, October 1st., 1961, by which time all of the above slaughterhouses should have been brought up to the required standard.

By this date four private slaughterhouses had, in fact, been put into good order, and, with the exception of drainage work, the main constructional work had been completed at one Wholesale Slaughterhouse. Considerable work remained outstanding at the other premises .

The reconstruction of the small private slaughterhouses was of a good standard and in my opinion a better result has been achieved than could have been anticipated.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 27,030 of which 99.5% were inspected. The animals remaining uninspected were 5 pigs and 170 sheep and lambs. 100% inspection in six scattered slaughterhouses with varying times of slaughter is proving elusive under present arrangements.

Although the number of animals slaughtered in 1961 went up by 2,084 the amount of meat condemned again went down to a total figure of 10 tons 17 cwts. Five years ago when the kill was approximately the same, the amount of meat condemned was over 32 tons. This is a sure indication that the health of food animals has improved considerably. During the year 1,452 visits were made to slaughterhouses within the district.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole
or in part during the year.

	Beasts.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	584	2100	1943	665	15915	5823.
Number inspected.	584	2100	1943 <i>484</i> <i>2527</i>	665	15798	5818.
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :-						
Whole carcases condemned	2	1	44	24	48	28
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	96	362	893	8	1469	605
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16'4%	17'2%	48'21%	4'81%	9'6%	10'88%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	2	-	-	70
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	17%	104%	101%	-	-	1'21%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	16	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	16	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned	6-cwt 13 lbs.	2-cwt 16 lbs.	7 tons 17-cwt 13-lbs	9-cwt 27-lbs	1 ton 2-cwt 2-lbs	1-ton 1-cwt 3-lbs

CANNED FOODS.

The following canned foods were condemned during the year :-

Meat : 217-lbs 7-oz.	Fruit & Vegetables: 112-lbs 7-oz.
Fish: 3-lbs 8-oz.	Milk: 9-lbs.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT 1950.

Five visits to inspect four licensed swill boiling plants were made during the year. No new plants were licensed during the year.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH
AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

No inspections were made under this Act as the staff is just not available to carry out the Council's functions under the Act.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956.

Informal action taken in the case of a dust nuisance arising from the large Poultry House resulted in considerable improvement.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Number of factories in the District ... 71

Number of inspections carried out under
the provision of the above act
during the year ... 15

The statistical information is as follows :-

	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	3	2	
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	68	13	
Defects found :-	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (b) unsuitable or defective	5	5	5
Outworkers :-			
Number of outworkers in August List, Section 110 (1) (c) - Wearing Apparel (Making)	...	...	8

It was again not possible to carry out routine Factories
Act inspections.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS.

On 31st December, 1961, the amount of petrol stored
under licence within the district had increased to 150,275 gallons
in 70 installations, as follows :-

32 Retail Filling Stations
38 Private Installations

The amount of carbide stored under licence remained at
10,000 lbs. During the year your Inspectors attended two further
Meetings at Fire Brigade Headquarters, Taunton, held to discuss
problems arising under the above Acts within the County of Somerset.

During the year 110 visits were made and inspections
carried out at Petroleum installations, and 20 tank tests were
supervised. Improvements at many premises were obtained to comply
with the licensing conditions.

In conclusion I offer my thanks to all members of the office and outside staff for their conscientious work throughout the year and to Dr. Brew for his continued support and advice. My thanks are also due to Mr. Burdge and his Staff for their co-operation.

Mr. S. D. Crowle, the Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned in June 1961 to return to his native Cornwall, and his place on the staff was taken up by Mr. A. D. Soloman who came to us from Bristol Corporation.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. POWELL.

